

TROUBLES IN ARMENIA.

A Graphic Description by a Resident.

MRS. SHEPHERD'S STATEMENT.

Unprovoked Attack on the Christians. The Government Slow to Act—Soldiers Assist the Plunderers—Danger to the Foreigners—Much Suffering.

HONOLULU, FEB. 14, 1896.

MR. EDITOR:—I enclose herewith extracts from a letter received last week from my brother-in-law, Dr. Fred D. Shepard, the president of the Central Turkey College at Aintab, Turkey, describing the outbreak and massacre at Aintab of the Christian Armenians. My sister Dr. Fauny P. Shepard and her husband went out as missionaries in 1882 and were located at Aintab in charge of the hospital which had been built by the efforts of Dr. Trowbridge, the founder of the college. They both speak the Turkish fluently and have many personal friends among the Moslems.

I visited them in 1885 and became acquainted with their work and many of the people. I liked the Armenians very much, and thought them and still believe that they are a class of people that would be of great value to us in this country, if brought as immigrants, being hard working, frugal and patient under extreme provocation, born of the oppression to which they have been subjected for generations. Though it is a long way to bring people, it is quite possible that with the world wide sympathy now awakened in behalf of the Armenians, that advantageous terms could be made with the carrying companies to bring them. I know of no people on the face of the earth more likely to fill our requirements for immigrants, that is, a class of Christian Armenians who will suffer death rather than renounce their religion.

Yours truly,
L. A. ANDREWS.

On Saturday morning, November 16th, without the slightest warning, a great shouting and firing of guns came to us from the city, telling that the work of blood and plunder had begun.

My first thought was for the hospital and girls' seminary, so I sprang upon my horse and hurried over there. I met and passed a good many armed Kurds who live in the suburbs just about the hospital and girls' school.

Upon reaching the city the confused sound that had reached us at the college became resolved into its elements, the hoarse cries of fighting men, the screams of women and children, and most hideous of all, the la-lu-lu of the Kurdish and Turkish women cheering on the men to the attack. I found the hospital and seminary yet unattacked. Dr. Hamilton and Miss Trowbridge preferred to remain at their post of duty than to join the ladies at the seminary. Upon my return to the seminary, which is separated from the hospital yard by a narrow street, I found Brother Sanders there, and shortly our nearest neighbor, Haje Hassem Agha, came in and said that at the outbreak, which occurred at the Bazaar, he had hastened at the top of his speed to protect the hospital and girls' school. As I had saved his brother's life by a desperate surgical operation some years ago, and always had been on friendly terms, I felt we could trust him to do his best. But when, a few minutes later, some 200 soldiers in uniform, with fixed bayonets, filed out of the street below and marched into the open space beyond the seminary, I felt a great relief, for that meant that the government intended to protect the Americans at least.

From the upper veranda of the seminary we could plainly see the crowd of plunderers breaking into Christian houses and carrying off household goods. We could see the brave defense made by the Christians from the houseposts with stones and fire arms (when they had them), and still the horrid la-lu-lu of the Kurdish women rent the air, mingled with the screams of the conquered, wounded and dying, the hoarse cries of the men and the dropping reports of the firearms. An attack was made upon the hospital gate, but Haje Hassem held the assailants in check until the soldiers arrived and drove them off. Clouds of smoke from a fire in the lower part of the city added to the terror of the women servants at the hospital, some of whom lived in that neighborhood; but the girls at the seminary behaved very well indeed.

About noon, seeing there was no immediate danger of an attack upon the seminary or hospital, I left Brother Sanders there and returned to the college. Here I found thirty to forty refugees, mostly stone cutters, who had been out on the hills at work, and a few women and children. Not long after noon the disturbance in the part of the city near us had mostly ceased, although the occasional sound of guns and the smoke of burning houses from the central part of the city showed that the fiendish work still went on, and a continual passing of villagers with bundles of plunder on their backs and some with donkey loads and camel-loads showed too plainly that the looted areas must have been considerable. Though not expecting a night attack, we thought wise to barricade one of the buildings on the campus for a rendezvous. We set a watch and retired, but there was not much sleep. Nothing occurred during the night, and a cloudy morning broke above the city.

At sunrise the villagers had already begun to enter the city, but soon after that the soldiers began to stop them in a half-hearted sort of way, allowing them to congregate in large numbers

a short distance from the line of soldiers. About 11 o'clock I saw through my field-glass a captain on a white horse (I recognized both the man and the horse) approach a crowd of plunderers about 200 strong who had been driven from the city up onto the hills a quarter mile to the south. We made a harangue to them. Then we turned back with the soldiers, and before they reached the city, the whole crowd had swarmed past them and entered the streets. Then I knew the scenes of the day before were to be repeated.

Taking my field-glass, I mounted to the college tower. Before long the head of the crowd appeared coming up Pasha street, which had been completely looted the day before. They poured out of the street—a motley crowd of Turkish and Kurdish villagers and city roughs—to the number of 1500 or so, and, turning to the right, made a rush for the Christian quarter. That quarter has a strong gate across its entrance, and thirty to forty Christians were gathered upon the house-tops commanding the approach to the gate, armed with stones and two or three guns, and, with the advantage of their position on the flat roofs, they held the mob at bay for three-quarters of an hour, and finally drove them off. Meantime, on the north side of the city I saw the same captain on the white horse. Here there were, perhaps, 1000 plunderers held in check by thirty to forty soldiers. Not long after, the captain made his appearance in that quarter. A part of the mob made a break, and 200 or 300 of them rushed into a small Christian quarter just under the city wall, and in a very few minutes were seen running off with their plunder. In the case of both these attacks there were a plenty of soldiers standing about with loaded guns and fixed bayonets, who made not the slightest attempt to prevent the attack or to scatter the mob, and the conclusion was irresistible that the captain on the white horse had planned the attack in each case, or, at least, had signified to the mob that it could work its will. But his plans did not altogether work, for, while the plunder was going on upon the north side, the colonel appeared upon the scene, and very soon the soldiers were firing over the heads of the mob to frighten them, and they were flying pell mell out of the city. Mr. Sanders, who came over a few minutes this morning (by giving the soldiers a present), said the colonel shot four of the mob with his own hand, which would account for the celerity with which they departed. I attempted to go to the hospital yesterday (Sunday) morning, and again this morning, but was not allowed to. Mr. Sanders brought word that the wounded of the north side attack yesterday had been taken to the hospital; one died in the night and others were in a bad way. Dr. Hamilton and Miss Trowbridge, our surgical assistant, had cared for them. Today the plunderers from outside have been kept out of the city, but villagers have been freely allowed to go out with their booty. How I wish I could get into the city to look after the wounded. We have made application to the Governor for permission to go to the hospital but have received no reply. Yesterday we were refused a similar request, and as there is a body of soldiers between here and there it is impossible to go.

November 24th. It seems at least a month since I wrote the preceding part of this letter. Tuesday morning I was allowed to go to the city to see the governor and the military commander, in whose company I found most of the notables of the Moslem community. I appealed to them for safe conduct, for the wounded to be brought to the hospital and for burial of the dead. Both of which requests they acceded to, and I had not been back at the hospital more than a half hour when Dr. Habit, with an escort of soldiers, brought in some fifty or sixty patients. We were soon at work and a ghastly sight they were. They had been wounded the Saturday before or had lain either exposed to the weather, or crowded into a dirty stable all that time. Those who had escaped the ministrations of the native doctor were fortunate, for all the wounds which he had touched were in a terribly septic state. The wounds were mostly by knives or swords, upon the heads, or the hands and arms, and to ward off the head blows; very few of the poor fellows had escaped without several, and some had ten or a dozen cuts. There were a few bayonet and gunshot wounds inflicted by the soldiers. In the middle of the afternoon, just as we began to think we were getting through two more arrivals, which kept us busy till dark. Among those brought that day there were five fractured skulls, two arms and legs to be amputated, and several other very serious cases. Three of these have since died. Each day since, there have been some new cases brought in till the number of wounded that we have treated at the hospital alone, now exceeds 150. We have no means as yet of knowing the number of the dead, for while they readily promised, protection for the burial, that promise was broken. Most of the Christian dead were dragged to the outskirts of the city with every imaginable indignity and either burned or cast into the old quarries that abound upon the edge of the city, and left for the dogs and vultures to eat. Some of them, after being thrown into these pits, were covered out of sight by casting stones upon them. The best estimate obtainable puts the number of the killed at between 300 and 400 for the Christians and ten to twelve for the Moslems. The massacre began in the market without the slightest warning, and the poor unarmed Christians were easily overcome being outnumbered three to one. The carnage soon spread from the Bazaar and markets to the outlying Christian quarters. All the Christian shops were plundered, and four outlying Christian quarters mostly occupied by the poorer classes. A number of wealthy Christian houses were looted and several burned. The two main Christian wards have many gates which were closed and some of them were defended. So the progress of the mob was checked, until night came down and put an end to the scene. So far as I can learn, there was no attempt made by either the government or the Moslem Beys and Effendis, during the whole of that terrible Saturday, to stop the killing and looting, except that they hurried a large force of soldiers out for the defense of the

foreign residents. The soldiery took part in the pillage, and did nothing to prevent the butchery, though not doing a large part of the latter themselves. The following day they began to repress the populace, and up to the present have succeeded in preventing any further general outbreak; but the poor Christians are terror-stricken, and all of them await their death in their houses or the churches. Yesterday there was a determined attempt upon the part of a large mob to attack the Christian part of the city, but the military quelled it without much difficulty. This took place upon the southern side, and, while the soldiery were mostly withdrawn to that side, two or three large houses were looted upon the northern side in one district. A letter comes from Marash telling of another terrible massacre there and three Christian quarters burned. This is the third one that has occurred there during the last month, and this time was perpetrated by the soldiery, with the apparent approval of the government. The theological seminary and students' boarding house were plundered, the former burned, and two of the students shot, one fatally. Our missionaries there have so far escaped, but we feel very anxious about them, and, in fact, the whole situation is a very grave one. There seems to be a well laid plan upon the part of the Turk to put the Armenian race down so thoroughly that it will not think of anything but how to get its daily bread for many a long year to come. The distress throughout our mission is going to be terrible before spring. Here is one winter upon these thousands who have been driven out of their homes and had them plundered or burned.

December 8th.—The time drags on with no great change in the situation. There has been no further outbreak since my last writing and the strain seems somewhat relaxed, but the Christians dare not stir out of their houses yet and all business is at a standstill. Reports of similar or worse butchery come to us from Harpoot, Diabekir, Iwalatia, Lerevek and Givum, besides many other places. The best information I can get leads me to place the killed here at not less than 400. The attack was wholly unprovoked, and the fact that not more than ten to twelve Moslems were killed shows for itself that it was a mere butchery. Women and girls were not molested except in a few cases where they attempted to defend their husbands or sons, but boys were killed as ruthlessly as the men. It has been a terrible time, and I have not written the horrible details that you must have before you to realize the fiendish brutality of the affair. We cannot feel any sense of security until there has been a radical change in the policies of the empire, though the settlement of the Zeilon rebellion would remove one great menace to our safety. One thing which has made it particularly hard to bear has been the impossibility of communication with the outside world, either to learn what is going on there or to acquaint others with the state of things here. Our letters have been intercepted, papers not allowed to reach us, telegrams not sent us, and when we have attempted to send special messengers they have been arrested and treated as spies, imprisoned and we think, in two cases, killed. We have felt that the everlasting arms were underneath us through it all, and it has been a great pleasure to me personally to be able to help the sick and wounded. What is to become of the thousands of homeless widows and orphans during the coming winter? Aintab has escaped with little loss as compared with many places, and still in Aintab there are at least 2000 people who must be wholly supported by charity during the coming winter. At Marash the number must be more than five times as large, and I estimate the number of homeless and starving Christians in the empire as over 200,000 today. Do what you can to help raise funds for these poor people.

To be of much use, funds must be in hand to be distributed during January. Actual starvation cannot be delayed beyond that time by the efforts of the people themselves, although they share all they have with each other. Thank the Lord anew that you live in free America.

IN FAVOR OF UNITY.

The Workingmen Organize. Spirited Meeting Last Night.

The Hawaiian Protective Association met in the headquarters of the American League last night for the purpose of making final arrangements for permanent organization. There were over 125 present. J. L. Carter was made temporary chairman and stated the object of the association. In doing this he emphasized specially the fact that the association did not propose to antagonize the plantations for one moment. The object was simply to protect the building trades from the onslaughts of the Asiatics, who were fast becoming a controlling body in the community. The recent formation of a Chinese lumber and building association was pointed out as a menace, in that it aimed to control all the building in the city.

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